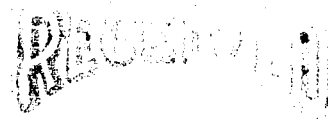


Gerry Hendricks M/G USAF Ret.
9432 Mt Vernon Circle
Alexandria VA 22309
gkhendricks@msn.com



JAN 22 2008

Northern Va. Region
Dept. of Env. Quality

Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge VA 22193

Dear Mr. Darton and Members of the Air Board,

I am writing this letter because of my concern over the possibility of closing the Potomac River Power Generating Plant. I have been a member of this community for over 25 years – and I think everyone in this area is concerned about air pollution and our environment. However I also know that most people in our community also appreciate the critical need for electric power – **there have to be some reasonable tradeoffs.**

I know that coal burning plants are a challenge in today's environment of concern for air pollution, global warming etc. Coal, however – is what our nation has the most of – and we need to try hard technologically to take advantage of this tremendous, readily available resource.

I know that the proximity of Reagan Nat'l Airport has prevented our local power plant from being able to construct the optimum high exhaust stacks that would normally be used to make a plant of this type acceptable.

However, I firmly believe that our critical need for electrical power – behooves us to try hard to accommodate this existing important part of our area's electrical grid – particularly during the peak power periods of hot summer and cold winter months. **I believe we must let the power plant proponents go ahead with their proposed design of merged stacks to see if this engineering change does in fact lower local air pollution to an acceptable level. In my mind this is the only reasonable thing to do – try it and see if we can't figure out how to live with this very, very important part of our local welfare and economy.**

Thank You for your Consideration –


Gerry Hendricks
M/G Gen USAF Ret.